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Consolidated report on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46, in annex II, paragraph 32 of which the Council requested the Secretary-General to produce a consolidated report on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. The report identifies, for the Council's consideration, linkages in the work of the functional commissions on which the Council needs to consider taking action. It is intended to assist the Council in ensuring the harmonization and coordination of the work of its functional commissions, while providing policy guidance to them.

2. As was the case with earlier consolidated reports (E/1999/3 and E/1999/101), the present report is not meant in any way as a substitute for or a summary of the reports of the functional commissions. Rather, it should be read in conjunction with those reports as well as with the reports of the Secretary-General on ways to enhance the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (E/2000/57) and on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (E/2000/67).

3. The report is divided into six parts. Section II provides an overview of the work of the commissions in 2000, identifying the main focus of their work programmes and highlighting their relationship to priority topics and system-wide events. Section III provides an overview of a number of thematic linkages and complementarities among the activities of the functional commissions over a three-year period from 1998 to 2000. Section IV outlines the existing coordination and consultation mechanisms currently utilized by the functional commissions, and provides suggestions on how those mechanisms could be strengthened. Section V contains a summary of the outcome of the joint meetings held between the Bureau of the Council and the bureaux of its functional commissions in 2000. Section VI contains recommendations for further enhancing the coordination of the work of the functional commissions.

4. Eight of the nine functional commissions met in 2000.[1] The unedited reports of three of the functional commissions were available when the present report was prepared: the reports of the Commission on Population and Development (thirty-third session), the Commission for Social Development (thirty-eighth session), and the Statistical Commission (thirty-first session). For the remaining five commissions, information from in-session documentation as well as from resolutions and decisions adopted during the session was used as it became available.

[1] The Commission on Science and Technology for Development, which holds its sessions biennially, did not meet in 2000.

II. Overview of the work of the functional commissions in 2000

5. Most of the functional commissions have adopted multi-year programmes of work,[2] and these are described in table 1 in order to provide a picture of each commission's focus in 2000 and, where available, for future years.

6. As already indicated in earlier reports, an analysis of the work programmes of the functional commissions from 1998 to 2000 shows that these work programmes have, to a large extent, been developed in full awareness of the focus of the work of other commissions and bearing in mind forthcoming major events to which their work could contribute. An example, as illustrated in table 1, was the decision by the Commission on Population and Development to select priority themes so that the outcome of its discussion could be fed directly into the special sessions of the General Assembly ("Population, gender and development" in 2000 for the review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action in the same year and "Population, environment and development" in 2001 for the review of the implementation of Agenda 21 in 2002). Also relevant is the selection, by the Commission on the Status of Women, of the theme "Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular issues related to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance" for 2001, which would also serve as an input to the World Conference against Racism scheduled to take place in the same year, and for which the preparatory body is the Commission on Human Rights. It should also be noted that the multi-year work programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development for 1998-2002 no longer provides the consideration of such issues as population and poverty, which although addressed in Agenda 21, are more effectively pursued by the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission for Social Development in their respective follow-up to the review processes.

7. For the period 1996-2000, four of the five functional commissions directly responsible for follow-up to the major conferences (Commissions for Social Development and on Sustainable Development, Population and Development and the Status of Women) adopted and implemented multi-year thematic programmes of work. Further information in this regard is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (E/2000/67). While to a large extent, themes were selected taking into account the work of the other commissions, it is nevertheless important to continue to bear in mind the Council's recommendation that coordination and collaboration in preparing work programmes be increased at the planning and formulation stage so as to further increase the harmonization of the work programmes of the functional commissions (see Council resolution 1999/51, para. 8).

8. At its thirty-eighth session, in 2000, the Commission for Social Development focused on the priority theme "Contribution of the Commission to the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit". The agreed conclusions on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development adopted by the Commission by consensus identified progress

[2] The Commission on Human Rights determined that it would be difficult to adopt a multi-year programme of work due to the range, scope and political nature of its work, as well as unforeseen changes in emphasis and priorities relating to subject matters.

made and constraints encountered in achieving the Summit outcomes in five areas, including poverty eradication, full employment, social integration, support for Africa and the least developed countries and mobilization of resources. Specific references were made in some of the sections to human rights issues, the situation of women and gender mainstreaming. These agreed conclusions were incorporated as part of the final outcome of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. It is important to note that, in negotiating the draft agreed conclusions, the Commission gave particular attention to some of the cross-cutting issues addressed in the other functional commissions. In addition to the priority theme above, the Commission reviewed relevant United Nations plans and programmes relating to the situation of social groups, namely, people with disabilities and older persons. For 2001, the Commission has selected the priority theme "Enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability in a globalizing world". The Commission will select subsequent themes for its multi-year programme of work at its thirty-ninth session, in 2001.

9. At its thirty-first session, in 2000, the Statistical Commission continued to focus on the statistical implications of recent major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular the coordination of development indicators relevant to these major events, including capacity-building. It also reviewed progress and coordination of international statistical work in the economic, social and environment fields and made specific recommendations for action by the Secretariat. For the first time and in response to the Council's request, the Commission adopted a multi-year programme of work for the years 2000-2003 (see E/CN.3/2000/L.3/Add.1). It also considered a conference room paper showing linkages/relationships between the agenda items and the work of other functional commissions, as well as a conference room paper describing actions taken by the Commission in the follow-up to the agreed conclusions of the Council's high-level and coordination segments and relevant Council resolutions.

10. The Commission on Population and Development selected "Population, gender and development" as the theme for its thirty-third session, in 2000, and "Population, environment and development" as the theme for its thirty-fourth session, in 2001. By Commission decision 1999/1, its secretariat was requested to submit themes for its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions. At its thirty-third session, the Commission agreed to select "Reproductive rights and reproductive health" as its priority theme for 2002, and "Population, education and development" as its priority theme for 2003. It should be noted that the Commission has, from the start of the process of selecting special themes, attempted to coordinate their selection by taking into account those selected by the other functional commissions.

11. The forty-fourth session, in 2000, of the Commission on the Status of Women was followed by the third session of the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly on the five-year review of the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Commission, having implemented its multi-year programme of work for 1997-2000, adopted a provisional agenda for 2001 which will contain, *inter alia*, the priority themes "Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS" and "Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular issues related to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance". It is the intention of the commission to prepare a new multi-year programme in 2001 to cover the period 2002-2005, taking into account the outcome of the above-mentioned special session

of the General Assembly, which was entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" and was held in June 2000. In order to facilitate its adoption, the Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General containing proposals for such a work programme. The report will also provide an overview of the multi-year work programmes of the other functional commissions so as to ensure that the Commission on the Status of Women's new programme optimizes the thematic synergies between the functional commissions.

12. At its fifty-sixth session, in 2000, the Commission on Human Rights continued its work on the elaboration of new international human rights instruments. Of particular importance was the adoption, by acclamation, of Commission resolution 2000/59, entitled "Question of draft optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflict, as well as on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography", by which the Commission recommended the early adoption of the two new optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the Economic and Social Council as well as by the General Assembly in order to facilitate the opening for signature of the two texts at the above-mentioned special session of the General Assembly.

13. At its eighth session, in 2000, the Commission on Sustainable Development adopted a number of decisions, including on agriculture, integrated planning and management of land resources, economic growth, trade and investment, financial resources and mechanisms, and preparations for the 10-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In particular, the Commission urged Governments to improve market access, provide technical assistance and establish capacity-building initiatives in favour of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to help them to increase export opportunities, promote diversified export-oriented production and enhance their ability to trade, and to implement their commitments in existing multilateral agreements, including World Trade Organization agreements. The Commission also considered the issue of financial assistance for promoting sustainable agriculture and development, and welcomed the progress made by the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) and endorsed its conclusions and proposals for action as contained in its report to the Council.

14. At its ninth session, in 2000, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice focused mainly on follow-up to the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which was held immediately prior to the session. In addition, the Commission considered, *inter alia*, such issues as international cooperation in combating transnational crime, including the elaboration of an international convention against transnational organized crime and other possible international instruments. As highlighted in table 1, the Commission implemented a multi-year programme of work from 1998 to 2000. The Commission decided that the prominent theme for its tenth session, in 2001, would be "Progress made in global action against corruption". The Commission did not consider it advisable to adopt themes for subsequent sessions given the ongoing work on the drafting of the convention on organized crime and related protocols, as well as the follow-up to the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which calls for a flexible approach. The Commission accordingly agreed to decide at each future session the theme to be discussed at its subsequent sessions.

15. At its forty-third session, in 2000, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs dealt with a number of issues, including follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on drug control and international cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes. For the first time, it decided to convene a ministerial-level segment at its sessions in 2003 and 2008 in order to review the follow-up implementation of the action plans adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and provide political momentum to the initiative. So as to strengthen preparations for such a segment, the Commission decided to hold thematic debates at its forty-fourth session, in 2001, and at its forty-fifth session, in 2002, on the following two themes, respectively: "Building partnerships to address the world drug problem" and "Action plan on international cooperation on the eradication of illicit drug crops and on alternative development". These thematic debates, which would be guided by panels of experts, should serve to enhance the possibility of a focused discussion of the issues.

Table 1
Work programmes of the functional commissions, 1998-2002

	Multi-year work programme	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Commission for Social Development	1997-2000 Yearly: – Enabling environment – Social development goals in structural adjustment programmes – Resources – Framework for cooperation in social development	– Promoting social integration and participation of all, including vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and persons	– Social services for all – Initiation of the overall review of the World Summit for Social Development – Review of United Nations plans and programmes of action: issues pertaining to ageing and International Year of Older Persons	– Contribution of the Commission to the overall review and appraisal of the World Summit for Social Development	– Enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability in a globalizing world	
Commission on Population and Development	1996-1999 and 2000-2003	– Health and mortality (emphasis on health development linkages, gender, age)	– Population growth, structure and distribution, with special emphasis on sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including education – Quinquennial review and appraisal of ICPD	– Population, gender and development	– Population, environment and development	– Reproductive rights and reproductive health, with special reference to human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (For 2003: Population, education and development)
Commission on the Status of Women	1997-2000 and 2001	– Violence against women – Women and armed conflicts – Human rights of women – The girl child	– Women and health – Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women – Initiation of the comprehensive review and appraisal of the Fourth World Conference on	– Comprehensive review of the Fourth World Conference on Women – Emerging issues	– Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS – Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular issues related to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and	

	Multi-year work programme	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
			Women – Differential impact of population ageing on women and men (contribution to International Year of Older Persons)		related intolerance	
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	1998-2000 and 2001	– Organized transnational crime	– Crime prevention	– International cooperation in combating transnational crime – Conclusions and recommendations of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders	– Progress made in global action against corruption	
Commission on Narcotic Drugs	2001-2002 (Thematic debates)				– Building partnerships to address the world drug problem	– Action plan on international cooperation on the eradication of illicit drug crops and on alternative development
Commission on Sustainable Development	1998-2002 – Overriding issues: poverty, consumption and production patterns	*Sectoral*: – Strategic approaches to fresh water management – Review of outstanding chapters of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States *Cross-sectoral*: – Transfer of	– Comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States *Sectoral*: – Oceans and seas *Cross-sectoral*: – Consumption and production patterns	*Sectoral*: – Integrated planning and management of land resources *Cross-sectoral*: – Financial resources – trade and investment – Economic growth *Economic sector/major group*: – Agriculture	*Sectoral*: – Atmosphere, energy *Cross-sectoral*: – Information for decision-making and participation – International cooperation for an enabling environment *Economic sector/major group*:	– Comprehensive review of Agenda 21

	Multi-year work programme	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
		technology, capacity-building, education, science, awareness-building *Economic sector major group*: – Industry	*Economic sector/major group*: – Tourism	– Day of indigenous people	– Energy/transport	
Commission on Science and Technology for Development			– Science and technology partnerships and networking for national capacity-building (with particular emphasis on biotechnology and energy)		– National capacity-building in biotechnology, with particular attention to agriculture and the agro-industry, health and the environment	
Statistical Commission	2000-2002		– Demographic, social and migration statistics – Vital statistics system – Poverty statistics – Classifications of expenditures by purpose – Environment statistics – Development indicators – Statistical classifications – Practical guidelines for good practices in technical cooperation for statistics – IMF data dissemination standards and system	– Gender issues – Poverty statistics – Economic statistics – Tourism statistics – Environment statistics – Development indicators – Statistical classifications – Methodological development – IMF data dissemination standard and system – UNDP *Human Development Report*	– Gender issues – Economic statistics – Environment statistics – Development indicators – Statistical classifications – Methodological development – Information technology – Technical cooperation	– Gender issues – Poverty statistics – Economic statistics – Environment statistics – IMF data dissemination standard and system – Dissemination of statistics – Statistical organization

III. Selected themes dealt with by the functional commissions from 1998 to 2000

16. The present section describes the attention given by the functional commissions to selected themes during the period 1998 to 2000. A number of cross-cutting themes emanating from the major conferences of the 1990s were selected, including:

(a) Enabling environment for development;

(b) Migration;

(c) Poverty and hunger;

(d) Human rights and gender;

(e) Basic social services;

(f) Sustainable development;

(g) Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

The purpose of the present analysis is to provide an indication of the linkages between the outcomes as well as the emphasis given to them by the various functional commissions over a three-year period, and to highlight areas where cooperation among the commissions could be improved. Tables 2 to 8 provide information on the linkages between these outcomes.[3]

17. The outcome of the work of the Statistical Commission is not included in the present analysis because of its unique focus in dealing with statistical aspects of substantive areas. The Commission has dealt with statistical aspects of several of the above cross-cutting themes, namely, migration, poverty, gender and sustainable development. It should be noted that the Commission, particularly at its thirty-first session, in 2000, has made an important contribution regarding the statistical implications of recent major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular the coordination of development indicators. The Commission is further considering relevant issues in an effort to link its work more directly with the other functional commissions in order to ensure a more integrated approach to issues of concern to the Council.

[3] In tables 2-8, the information provided in brackets after the resolutions/decisions relates to issues dealt with therein and is not necessarily the title of the resolution/decision.

Table 2
Enabling environment

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission for Social Development	Res. 36/1 (general, structural adjustment, globalization, ODA/external finance, national policies and international cooperation)	Agreed conclusions on social services for all and Chairman's summary of the expert panel discussion on social services for all (globalization); agreed conclusions on social services for all, draft res. 37/3 and Chairman's summary of the expert panel on social services for all (resources for development); agreed conclusions on social services for all, draft res. 37/3 (structural adjustment)	Annex to draft res. E/CN.5/2000/L.7 (globalization, trade, national policies and international cooperation, resources for development, ODA/external finance, external debt)
Commission on the Status of Women		Agreed conclusions on critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform of Action (globalization, resources for development and trade)	
Commission on Population and Development		Draft dec. E/CN.9/1999/L.4 (globalization); proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (resources for development)	
Commission on Sustainable Development	Dec. 6/2 (general) Decs. 6/1 and 6/3 (national policies and international cooperation) Dec. 6/1 (ODA/external finance)	Dec. 7/2 and draft Chair's compilation A/S-22/2 (globalization); Draft Chair's compilation A/S-22/2 (resources for development)	Chairman's summary of the high-level segment (globalization, trade, ODA/external finance, resources for development); Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable agriculture (globalization and trade); Decision on agriculture (ODA/external finance and trade); Decision on economic growth, trade and investment (trade, resources for development, national policies and international cooperation); decision on financial resources and mechanisms (globalization, ODA/external finance, trade, resources for development and external debt)

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission on Human Rights	Res. 1998/33 and 1998/72 (general); res. 1998/24 and 1998/72 (globalization); res. 1998/24 and 1998/72 and draft dec. 29 (national policies and international cooperation); res. 1998/24, 1998/33 and 1998/72, and dec. 102 and draft dec. 36 (structural adjustment); res. 1998/23 and 1998/24 (ODA and external finance); res. 1998/24 and draft dec. 9 (external debt)	Res. 1999/59 and 1999/79 (globalization); res. 1999/22 and 1999/25 and dec. 1999/104 (structural adjustment); res. 1999/22 and 1999/24 (external debt)	Res. 2000/82 and dec. 2000/109 (structural adjustment and foreign debt); dec. 2000/102 (globalization)
Commission on Science and Technology for Development	(Did not meet)	Chairperson's summary of the general discussion (globalization)	(Did not meet)

A. Enabling environment

18. The World Summit for Social Development highlighted the importance of building an enabling environment for development through a broad range of actions. The report of the Secretary-General on a coordinated follow-up to major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields (E/1995/86) noted that this theme was common to various major conferences of the 1990s, including such sub-themes as, *inter alia*, a macroeconomic policy framework conducive to development, external debt and finance for development and international trade and commodities. Subsequently, other sub-themes, such as globalization and structural adjustment, were added to this broader category and are therefore also included here.

19. It should be recalled that the Council, at its substantive session in 1997, adopted agreed conclusions 1997/1 on fostering an enabling environment, as it felt that for a topic of such importance it was best for the Council to deal with the issue in a comprehensive manner rather than for its functional commissions to take it up in a piecemeal fashion. In view of the breadth of this issue, it is difficult for each commission to address adequately all of the sub-themes which make up the broader category. Consequently, most of the functional commissions are able to treat certain aspects of it only selectively.

20. Table 2 shows that, from 1998-2000, the enabling environment was addressed particularly by five functional commissions: the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development. While each of the Commissions addressed this broad theme as it relates to its own area of competence, some complementarity exists in the commissions' consideration of this theme during this period. For example, the Commission on Population and Development, in its capacity as the preparatory body for the five-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development, addressed the full breadth of the issue of an enabling environment in 1999, while other commissions, such as the Commission on Human Rights, the

Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development, addressed its sub-themes.

21. In 2000, the Commission for Social Development, in the context of its overall review and appraisal of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, assessed the overall situation with regard to the enabling environment for development. The main points of its assessment are echoed in the outcome of several other commissions which dealt with this issue, including, for example, the focus on the problems posed for developing countries by worsening terms of trade, declining inflows of concessional resources and the high debt burden.

22. Table 2 shows that the impact of globalization has been a concern in several commissions. However, there appears to be a need to move towards a more detailed analysis of the impact of globalization and of trade and finance in the specific area addressed by the functional commissions. The debate at the high-level segment of the Commission on Sustainable Development, for instance, stressed the need for further research on the links between trade liberalization and sustainable development. It should be noted that the Commission on Human Rights proposed the appointment of two Special Rapporteurs of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to undertake a study on the issue of globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (see Commission decision 2000/102).

23. The issue of resources for development was also given considerable attention by the functional commissions in 2000. The Commission on Sustainable Development conducted an in-depth examination of this issue, and its decision on financial resources and mechanisms was prepared through an ad hoc inter-sessional working group (see E/CN.17/2000/10) and a panel on finance and investment. The Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Population and Development examined the issue of resources towards the implementation of the conferences for which they have main monitoring responsibility. They also addressed official development assistance (ODA), external indebtedness, private investment and international financial stability. There was generally considerable consistency in the recommendations of the functional commissions on these issues, and a continuing strong emphasis on the need to reverse ODA decline and provide deeper, broader and faster debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries, while also addressing the debt problems of middle income countries. The Council could draw attention to this work and generally to the work of its commissions on these issues, as the Assembly is preparing a high-level event on financing for development in 2001.

Table 3
Migration

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission for Social Development			Draft res. E/CN.5/2000/L.7 (annex) (human rights of migrants)
Commission on the Status of Women	Draft res. IV (human rights of migrant workers); res. 42/3 (violence against migrant workers)	Report of the Working Group on Communications (E/CN.6/1999/CRP.5) (civil and economic rights of migrant women workers)	
Commission on Population and Development	Draft dec. on agenda item 4 (b) (international migration)	Draft resolution on population growth, structure and distribution (general); discussion on follow-up actions to the recommendations of ICPD (international migration)	Draft res. E/CN.9/2000/L.4 (gender dimensions of migration); *Concise Report on World Population Monitoring, 2000* (gender dimensions of migration)
Commission on Human Rights	Res. 1998/15 and 1998/16, draft decs. 4 and 38, decs. 1998/105 and 1998/106 (human rights of migrant workers); res. 1998/17 and 1998/52 (violence against women migrant workers)	Draft dec. 14, res. 1999/44 and 1999/45 (human rights of migrants); res. 1999/40 (illegal trafficking of migrant women and girls); res. 1999/42 (violence against migrant women)	Res. 2000/54 (violence against women migrants); res. 2000/48 and 2000/49 (human rights of migrants)
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	Draft res. II (for adoption by the General Assembly through the Council, on illegal trafficking in and transportation of migrants); draft dec. IV (illegal trafficking in and transportation of migrants)	Draft res. II (illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants)	

B. Migration

24. As highlighted in table 3, the issue of migration has been dealt with by a number of functional commissions. The Commission on Population and Development, which considered the theme of international migration and development in 1997, has focused on the measurement and understanding of changes in population distribution and the levels, trends, policies, determinants and consequences of international migration. The Commission for Social Development has looked at issues relating to the welfare of migrant workers, and the Commission on the Status of Women has dealt with the situation of refugee and migrant women and gender aspects of related policies. The Commission on Human Rights has on its agenda measures to improve the situation and ensure the dignity and human rights of migrants. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice deals with the issue within the context of illegal trafficking in and transportation of migrants, in particular where organized criminal groups are involved.

25. During their sessions in the year 2000, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on Human Rights considered issues relating to migration. The Commission for Social Development, in its agreed conclusions, addressed issues relating to the protection of immigrants and migrant workers and the problems of violation of the human rights of migrants. The Commission on Population and Development looked at the issues of internal migration and international migration within the context of its central theme for 2000, "Population, gender and development". In particular, it looked closely at the gender dimensions of migration. The Commission on Human Rights focused mainly on the human rights of migrants, the protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families, and the problem of violence against migrant workers.

26. Earlier consolidated reports have noted the apparent overlap in the work undertaken by some of the commissions in their consideration of this issue. An example can be seen in the consideration in 2000 by both the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Human Rights of the issue of the human rights of migrants.

Table 4
Poverty and hunger

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission for Social Development	Res. 36/1 (poverty); res. 36/1 (hunger and food)	Agreed conclusions on social services for all and Chairman's summary of the expert panel discussion on social services for all and res. 37/3 (poverty)	Annex to draft res. E/CN.5/2000/L.7 (poverty)
Commission on the Status of Women	Res. 42/1 (hunger and food)	Agreed conclusions of the Commission on institutional mechanisms for advancement of women (poverty)	
Commission on Population and Development	Draft dec. on agenda item 3 (hunger and food)	*Concise Report on World Population Monitoring, 1999* and Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD (poverty); *Concise Report on World Population Monitoring, 1999* (hunger and food)	

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission on Sustainable Development	Dec. 6/3 (poverty); dec. 6/1 (hunger and food)	Decs. 7/2 and 7/3 (poverty); dec. 7/1 (hunger and food)	Chairman's summary of the high-level segment (hunger and food); Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue (hunger and food); dec. on agriculture (poverty and hunger and food); dec. on integrated planning and management of land resources (poverty and hunger and food)
Commission on Human Rights	Res. 1998/24, 1998/25, 1998/33, 1998/72 and draft dec. 10 (poverty); res. 1998/23 and 1998/24 and draft dec. 8 (hunger and food)	Res. 1999/25 and 1999/26 (poverty); res. 1999/24 (hunger and food)	Special debate on the theme "Poverty and the enjoyment of human rights" (poverty); res. 2000/9 and 2000/12 (poverty); res. 2000/10 (hunger and food)
Commission on Science and Technology for Development	(Did not meet)	E/CN.16/1999/3 (hunger and food)	(Did not meet)
Commission on Narcotic Drugs		E/CN.7/1999/3 (poverty)	
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice		E/CN.15/1999/3 (poverty)	

C. Poverty and hunger

27. Table 4 shows that this cross-cutting priority theme was considered by most of the functional commissions over this three-year span.

28. Within the broader category of poverty eradication, the Council, in its agreed conclusions 1996/1, stated that it would, *inter alia*, carry out a review of the theme of poverty eradication at a date to be determined, as a contribution to the review of the World Summit for Social Development. This issue became the main theme of the 1999 session of the Council. It was also the overall theme of the high-level segment of the Council in 1999, culminating with the adoption of a ministerial communiqué on the topic "The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women" at the Council's high-level segment. The issue was also addressed in the operational activities segment as well as in the coordination segment within the context of discussions on Africa.

29. In 2000, the Commission for Social Development, in its agreed conclusions on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, provided an assessment of the progress achieved in the area of poverty eradication since the Summit.

30. At its eighth session, in 2000, the Commission on Sustainable Development dealt with the issue of food security within the context of the implementation of sustainable agriculture, and this is reflected in both the Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue and the Chairman's summary of the high-level segment

of the session. The Commission also adopted a decision on agriculture in which the issue of food security and the link between hunger and poverty were looked at. In that decision, the Commission also urged all Governments and the international community to implement the relevant commitments they have entered into for the eradication of poverty. Also, a decision on integrated planning and management of land resources covered aspects of the issues of poverty and food security, particularly within the context of prevention and mitigation of land degradation.

31. The Commission on Human Rights, at its fifty-sixth session, in 2000, held a special dialogue on poverty and the enjoyment of human rights. The dialogue reviewed the effects of poverty on the enjoyment of human rights, in particular the impact of poverty on the full range of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, and its outcome contributed to finding rights-based solutions to global poverty. Resolutions on the right to food and human rights and extreme poverty further show the emphasis accorded to these issues.

32. From reviewing the outcomes of the functional commissions, it can be concluded that this broad theme is being addressed by the relevant commissions from the point of view of their own areas of competence. In the past three years, efforts have been made to enhance complementarity in the work of the commissions in this area. For example, in 1999, the Commission for Social Development invited the other functional commissions to inform it of their work in this area and to provide inputs on aspects of poverty eradication addressed by them. The Commission on Human Rights recommended that the independent expert on extreme poverty report to it on her activities at its fifty-sixth session, in 2000, and make her report available to the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, as appropriate, during their sessions in the same year.

Table 5
Human rights and gender

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission for Social Development	Res. 36/1 (general)	Agreed conclusions on social services for all, dec. 37/102, annex to res. 37/3 and Chairman's summary of the expert panel discussion on social services for all (general)	Annex to draft res. E/CN.5/2000/L.7 (general)
Commission on the Status of Women	Draft res. IV and res. 42/5 (general); draft res. IV, res. 42/2 and 42/3 (violence against women); draft res. IV (traffic in women and girls); draft res. IV (the girl child)	All outcomes	Draft res. E/CN.6/2000/L.2 (violence against women); draft res. E/CN.6/2000/L.4 (general and violence against women); draft res. E/CN.6/2000/L.5 and L.6 (violence against women)

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission on Population and Development	Res. 1998/1 (general)	Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of ICPD (violence against women); Special themes of the Commission on Population and Development in the years 2000-2004 and proposals for key actions on the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (human rights of women and gender mainstreaming)	E/CN.9/2000/L.4 on special theme "Population, gender and development" (general); *Concise Report on World Population Monitoring, 2000* (general)
Commission on Sustainable Development		Dec. 7/3 (general); dec. 7/3 (violence against women); dec. 7/3 (traffic in women and girls)	Chairman's summary of the high-level segment; Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue; decision on agriculture
Commission on Human Rights	Res. 1998/51 and 1998/56 (general); res. 1998/17, 1998/52, 1998/73 and 1998/76 (violence against women); res. 1998/30 and 1998/76 (traffic in women and girls); res. 1998/76 (the girl child)	Res. 1999/24, 1999/25, 1999/26, 1999/46, 1999/47 and 1999/78 (general); res. 1999/42 (violence against women); res. 1999/40 (traffic in women and girls); res. 1999/80 (the girl child)	Res. 2000/5, 2000/9, 2000/13, 2000/44, 2000/46, 2000/71 and 2000/85 (general); res. 2000/44 (traffic in women and girls); res. 2000/45 (violence against women); res. 2000/18 (violation of the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan)
Commission on Science and Technology for Development	(Did not meet)	Dec. II, Chairman's summary of action arising from the third session and "A common vision" (text included in report of Commission) (general)	(Did not meet)
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	Res. 7/1 (general); draft res. IV and draft dec. I (violence against women); draft res. II, draft res. IV and draft res. V (traffic in women and girls)	Preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (general); draft res. I (violence against women); draft res. I (human rights of women and gender mainstreaming); draft res. II (traffic in women and children)	

D. Human rights and gender

33. While the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms fall clearly within the purview of the Commission on Human Rights, various aspects of this theme are addressed by the other functional commissions. For example, the question of reproductive rights is considered by the Commission on Population and Development, access to justice and the administration of justice by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the human rights of disabled persons and vulnerable groups by the Commission for Social Development. By far the largest cross-cutting human rights issue dealt with by the functional commissions is that of the human rights of women, and that issue will therefore be the cross-cutting theme examined here.

34. Promoting gender equality and the human rights of women are issues which have figured prominently in many of the international conferences and summits of the 1990s, and as mentioned above, are issues which have also been dealt with prominently in most of the functional commissions. This conforms largely to the Council's requests, most recently in its agreed conclusions 1997/2, that the commissions mainstream a gender perspective into their work.

35. As table 5 shows, the two commissions which deal in greatest depth with this issue are the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights. In the course of the last three years, these two commissions have developed an elaborate coordinating mechanism in an attempt to enhance complementarity of their work. For example, since 1998 the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women has annually participated in the work of the Commission on Human Rights and addressed that Commission. The results of the Commission on the Status of Women of particular relevance to the work of the Commission on Human Rights, such as its adopted agreed conclusions, are transmitted to the Chairperson of the latter Commission for its attention. In addition, since 1996, a joint work plan has been prepared between the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and submitted to both Commissions (see E/CN.6/2000/8-E/CN.4/2000/118).

36. In 2000, the Commission on Human Rights continued to pay attention to the issue of human rights and gender as seen in the many resolutions and decisions adopted at its fifty-sixth session (see table 5). The resolutions and decisions adopted on this issue include those on the elimination of violence against women, the need to suppress traffic in women and girls, issues relating to the violation of the human rights of women and girls, the elimination of violence against women migrant workers, the need to ensure that women have equal ownership of, access to and control over land and equal rights to own property and adequate housing, and the need to integrate human rights of women throughout the United Nations system. In considering issues on the right to development, right to food, human rights of persons with disabilities, on the problem of internally displaced persons and those involved in mass exoduses, the Commission on Human Rights made references to and/or touched on the importance of these issues as they affect women. Other issues, such as the situation of human rights in areas of concern, such as Afghanistan, and on the impact of globalization on the full enjoyment of all human rights, were also considered by the Commission within the context of their implications for women.

37. The issues of equal access to land and legal security of land tenure for all people, trade and investment for development, sustainable agriculture and economic growth and food security were considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session, in 2000. The promotion of the role of women as active participants in these areas was also given due consideration. On the other hand, the agreed conclusions of the Commission for Social Development point out, *inter alia*, the increasing feminization of poverty, the uneven access for girls to education, the sharp increase in poverty, especially among women, the need to promote social policies which enhance the inclusion and non-marginalization of women, and access by women to equitable distribution of opportunities, resources and incomes.

38. While some duplication exists in the work carried out in this area by the Commission on the Status of Women and other commissions, effective collaborative mechanisms, examples of which are mentioned above, have served to lessen such overlap and duplication over the past three years.

Table 6
Basic social services

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission for Social Development	Res. 36/1 (general); res. 36/1 (education)	Agreed conclusions on social services for all (general); annex to res. 37/3 (education and health)	Annex to draft res. E/CN.5/2000/L.7 (general, education and health)
Commission on the Status of Women	Res. 42/4 (general); res. 42/4 (education); draft res. IV (health)	Agreed conclusions on institutional mechanisms (general); agreed conclusions on women and health and draft res. IV and res. 43/2 and 43/3 (health)	Draft res. E/CN.6/2000/L.4 and L.6 (health and education)
Commission on Population and Development	Res. 1998/1 and draft res. I (health)	*Concise Report on World Population Monitoring, 1999* (education and health); draft res. on population growth, structure and distribution (education)	*Concise Report on World Population Monitoring, 2000* (education and health)
Commission on Sustainable Development	Dec. 6/3 (education)	Dec. 7/4 (education)	Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable development (education); dec. on agriculture (health); dec. on integrated planning and management of land resources (health)
Commission on Human Rights	Res. 1998/72 (general); res. 1998/33, 1998/72 and draft dec. 13 (education)	Res. 1999/79 (general); res. 1999/49 and 1999/80 (health)	Res. 2000/5 (general)
Commission on Science and Technology for Development	(Did not meet)	"A common vision" (text included in report of Commission) (education)	(Did not meet)

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice		Draft res. 3 on effective crime prevention (general)	
Commission on Narcotic Drugs			Draft res. II (health/ education); res. 43/4 (education)

E. Basic social services

39. Social services are an integral part of and positively contribute to social and economic development. Investment in social services contributes to poverty eradication, peace, equity and equality, social progress and cohesion, economic productivity, productive employment and full participation of all people in society. In making "Social services for all" its priority theme in 1999, the Commission for Social Development dealt in great depth with the issues relating to this theme. Table 6 shows that in 2000, attention was accorded to this topic by most of the functional commissions.

40. In 2000, the five-year reviews of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the World Summit for Social Development provided the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission for Social Development the opportunity to review, in a comprehensive manner, the issues of health, education and other basic social services, building on their earlier work in this area. It should be noted that there was considerable consistency in the approach of these two bodies, and both reviewed the targets agreed in the context of the world conferences of the 1990s for basic social services.

41. Complementarity in the work of the commissions in the area of basic social services has increased over the past few years. For example, the Commission for Social Development has recently been taking into account work undertaken by the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on the Status of Women regarding such issues as health and education, poverty and employment. The Commission on Human Rights has been taking into account work done on education by the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Population and Development. In addition and as mentioned in paragraph 55 below, the secretariats of the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission for Social Development collaborated on the preparation of the publication *Charting the Progress of Populations*.[4]

42. More particularly, on the issue of health, the functional commissions have identified a number of specific policy issues in the course of their work. The Commission on the Status of Women, in particular, highlighted areas requiring attention, such as women and infectious diseases, mental health and occupational and environmental health, and suggested the importance of integrating a gender analysis in the health sector (see 1999 agreed conclusions of the Commission on women and health). The Commission on Population and Development, which

[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.XIII.6.

considered the theme of health and mortality in 1998, also regularly discusses health issues in the context of its work on population monitoring, albeit from a somewhat different perspective. Recently, for example, in considering issues relating to health and mortality in both sexes, it also looked at the causes of female disadvantage in survival in early age and attention was drawn to the complex determinants of excess female mortality. The Commission for Social Development also tackles a broad range of issues related to health policies, including financing issues and access for vulnerable groups. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs has addressed specific issues in this area, such as the prevention of drug abuse and the use of controlled substances for medical purposes. The Council could help bring these various perspectives together, thereby ensuring that they contribute to the work undertaken in the United Nations system in this area, by holding a debate on these issues at one of its segments.

Table 7
Sustainable development

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission on Population and Development		Dec. 1999/1; *Concise Report on World Population Monitoring*; proposals for key actions on the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action	
Commission on Sustainable Development	Dec. 6/4	Dec. 7/1, 7/2 and 7/3	Chairman's summary of the high-level segment; Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable development; dec. on agriculture; dec. on integrated planning and management of land resources
Commission on Human Rights	Res. 1998/12 Draft dec. 2	Res. 1999/23, 1999/24 and 1999/25	Res. 2000/9, 2000/10 and 2000/72

F. Sustainable development

43. Cooperation among the functional commissions in this area has been generally satisfactory. For example, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Commission on Population and Development have cooperated in the area of population and the environment. Similarly, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Statistical Commission cooperate closely in the area of sustainable development indicators.

44. The Commission on Sustainable Development continues to focus its attention on key cross-cutting and sectoral issues that demonstrate the linkages between economic, social and environmental themes. It has also become a major forum for considering civil society views on the issues being considered in its multi-year

thematic programme of work. It has continued the practice started in 1998 of convening multi-stakeholder dialogues as part of its regular sessions and as a prelude to the high-level segment. The Commission brought together stakeholders, including representatives of government, industry, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and indigenous people, to discuss sustainable tourism at its seventh session, and land and agriculture at its eighth session, in 1999 and 2000, respectively.

45. Table 7 illustrates the inter-linkages in the work of the commissions over the past three years. It should be borne in mind that the theme "Population, environment and development" is slated for consideration in 2001 by the Commission on Population and Development as part of its multi-year programme of work. In addition, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development has also scheduled for consideration as part of its multi-year programme of work for the year 2001 the theme "National capacity-building in biotechnology, with particular attention to agriculture and agro-industry, health and the environment".

46. Coordination and complementarity in the work of the commissions on this theme has increased over the years, with enhanced collaboration between the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Population and Development, the Statistical Commission, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women.

Table 8
HIV/AIDS

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission for Social Development		Annex to res. 37/3	Annex to draft res. E/CN.5/2000/L.7
Commission on the Status of Women		Agreed conclusions on women and health; res. 43/2	Draft res. E/CN.6/2000/L.6
Commission on Population and Development	Res. 1998/1	Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action; *Concise Report on World Population Monitoring, 1999*	Draft res. E/CN.9/2000/L.4; *Concise Report on World Population Monitoring, 2000*
Commission on Human Rights		Res. 1999/49 and 1999/80	Res. 2000/82
Commission on Narcotic Drugs		Draft resolution on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction	

G. HIV/AIDS

47. The issue of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) has been considered mainly by the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights. In examining the outcomes on this issue, it could be concluded that complementarity exists in the work of the commissions, as to a large extent, the issue is addressed within the context of the Commission's own area of competence.

48. In 2000, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted resolution 44/2, entitled "Women, the Girl Child and HIV/AIDS", in which, *inter alia*, it urged the Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS) and its co-sponsors to intensify their efforts in assisting Governments to determine the best policies and programmes to prevent women and young girls from becoming infected with the disease and to give urgent and priority attention to the situation of women and girls in Africa. Alarmed by the increasing rate of HIV infection among women and the impact of the disease on women and girls, the Commission selected "Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS" as its priority theme for 2001.

49. At its thirty-third session in 2000, the Commission on Population and Development, in considering its priority theme "Population, gender and development", considered the gender aspects of HIV/AIDS and their implications for the health of women. The Commission secretariat is in the process of incorporating the most recent estimates of HIV/AIDS prevalence into the preparation of its forthcoming publication *Revision of World Population Estimates and Projections in 2000*. The results of the *Revision* will provide an updated assessment of the demographic impact of the disease. The Commission also decided that its secretariat should give due attention to the impact of HIV/AIDS in the preparation of documentation for the period 2001-2003.

50. It should also be mentioned that the secretariat of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, is a full-fledged member and sponsor of UNAIDS, and is undertaking programmes to counter the spread of HIV/AIDS through intravenous drug use. In this manner, ongoing collaboration takes place between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNAIDS.

IV. Current modalities for coordination

51. Interaction among the functional commissions continues to take place primarily through mutual representation and participation in each other's meetings and through the exchange of documents. In addition to these relatively straightforward forms of coordination, the commissions have attempted, in response to the Council's guidance, to mutually reinforce each other's work through other forms of collaboration, examples of which are described below. A number of further examples are highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (E/2000/67).

52. Most of the cooperative mechanisms utilized by the functional commissions are bilateral in nature. For example, in an effort to enhance complementarity on the issue of capital punishment, the report of the Secretary-General on this issue is

prepared by the secretariat of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (the Centre for International Crime Prevention), and is considered by the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Council itself. Another example is the close collaboration between the Commission on Crime Prevention and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Following the establishment of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, including its Centre of International Crime Prevention and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the synergies between the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs have been further expanded. The servicing of both commissions by one common secretariat has proven to be cost-effective and mutually reinforcing.

53. It should be noted that five of the nine commissions are serviced by divisions within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Commission on the Status of Women, Commission for Social Development, Commission for Population and Development, Statistical Commission and Commission on Sustainable Development), which greatly facilitates increased communication among them throughout the year in relation to each other's substantive and procedural issues. Furthermore, their close proximity has not only facilitated attendance at meetings, at the Director level, to discuss issues of mutual concern for their respective commissions, but has also enabled their direct input into the work of the commissions.

54. In its consideration of the issue of persons with disabilities, the Commission for Social Development has collaborated closely with the Commission on Human Rights. At its thirty-fourth session, in 1998, the Commission on Human Rights discussed the issue of human rights of persons with disabilities and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Social Development was invited to address the session. Recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur were taken into account in resolution 1998/31 adopted by the Commission on Human Rights. At its thirty-eighth session, in 2000, the Commission for Social Development's Special Rapporteur on Disability presented his report on monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, 1997-2000. In monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules, the Special Rapporteur worked closely with various organs and organizations of the United Nations system, including the Commission on Human Rights.

55. The Commission on Population and Development, during its thirty-third session, in 2000, received presentations on interrelated activities undertaken by other commissions, including on the five-year reviews of the major conferences within their mandate. Those presentations were made by the Directors within the secretariats of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Statistical Commission. Other forms of collaboration include inputs to other commissions and conference secretariats by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in its capacity as substantive secretariat for the Commission on Population and Development. An example of this is the Division's preparation, at the request of the Commission for Social Development, of the publication *Charting the Progress of Populations*.[5] The information contained therein was utilized by the Commission for Social Development in its preparatory work for the special session

[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.XIII.6.

of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and further initiatives.

56. The Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights have developed an effective collaborative mechanism which has served to greatly enhance coordination between them (see sect. III above). In addition, the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women addressed the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights, in 2000, which presented an opportunity for an exchange of views as well as suggestions for further cooperation. The Commission on the Status of Women has also instituted other mechanisms. For example, cooperation between it and the Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice has been enhanced through close cooperation between the secretariats of both commissions, especially in the areas of trafficking in persons and violence against women.

57. It is important to note that some of the functional commissions have decided to include, in their agendas, a new item to consider follow-up actions to resolutions and decisions of the Council, including those relating to the strengthening of cooperation among the commissions. For example, the Commission on the Status of Women considered the new item "Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions" (item 5) at its forty-fourth session, in 2000. A report on the item (E/CN.6/2000/5) was prepared by the Commission secretariat, which outlined follow-up action undertaken for Council resolutions 1999/35, 1999/51 and 1999/55. Similarly, the Statistical Commission, at its thirty-first session, in 2000, considered the item "Follow-up to the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council high-level and coordination segments and to its resolutions" (item 12) and, as mentioned in section III above, had before it a conference room paper outlining relevant follow-up actions undertaken.

58. The Chairpersons of the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, in a meeting held in March 1999 on ways to enhance coordination and cooperation, recommended that similar meetings of the chairpersons of the functional commissions take place annually during the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council. The importance of such a meeting was reiterated once more during the joint meeting of the Bureau of the Council and the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development in March 2000. It was noted, however, that a solution needed to be found to the problem of a lack of financial resources for holding such a meeting.

59. While it is evident that the functional commissions are benefiting from cooperative mechanisms which have been instituted in the interest of increased collaboration, there remain ample opportunities for strengthening those mechanisms and enhancing the collaboration and cooperation which has been achieved so far. Section VI below contains a number of recommendations in that regard, and should be read in conjunction with the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (E/2000/67).

V. Joint meetings of the Bureau of the Council and the bureaux of its functional commissions in 2000

60. In response to relevant paragraphs of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B and Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46, joint meetings of the Bureau of the Council and the bureaux of the functional commissions were held beginning in 1999. By its resolution 1999/51, the Council welcomed the progress made in ensuring an increased interaction of the Council with its subsidiary bodies, including its functional commissions, through the holding of joint bureaux meetings.

61. The present section covers the discussions held during the joint meetings of the Bureau of the Council and the bureaux of its functional commissions in 2000. It describes the efforts of the Council to bring about improved coordination of activities and positive linkages with its functional commissions, as well as improved interaction among the functional commissions through the sharing of information.

62. At the time of writing of the present report, the Bureau of the Council had met with the bureaux of six functional commissions in 2000; a list of the joint meetings is contained in the annex. Due to the extremely short duration of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice's ninth session, in 2000, it was not possible for a joint meeting to take place. A joint meeting with the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women was postponed due to the heavy workload resulting from the preparations for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".

Main issues discussed

63. The scope of the meetings varied from focusing on the working methods employed by the commissions and the level of coordination and collaboration both among functional commissions and between the Council and its functional commissions to the coordination of the functional commissions' work in the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major conferences and summits. This last issue also involved the forthcoming reviews of conferences, including the five-year reviews of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development and the 10-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The meetings also touched on the level of attention paid to cross-cutting themes being addressed by the United Nations system. The relationship between functional commissions with other organizations and bodies and mechanisms of the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations were also covered, although to a lesser degree.

64. A spirit of partnership permeated these joint bureaux meetings and they were considered very useful. A high level of cooperation and coordination existed between the Council and its functional commissions, as well as a recognition that the effective follow-up to the Council's policy recommendations has resulted in a marked revitalization of the work of its commissions.

Working methods of the functional commissions

65. The joint meetings provided opportunity for the bureaux of the commissions to comment on the effectiveness of activities that have emanated from guidance provided by the Council. Thus, the holding of inter-sessional meetings has been

embraced by almost all functional commissions. A greater number of inter-sessional meetings of the Commission for Social Development has facilitated a higher level of dialogue in the several segments organized for the session of the Commission. Inter-sessional meetings organized by the Commission on Sustainable Development were conducive to successful end-products of drafting groups in specific areas of concern. The Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development organized inter-sessional meetings to consider, *inter alia*, issues related to the Commission's organization of work, its future sessions, such as the special themes and review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Bureau's own working methods.

66. Outcomes of expert workshops organized by functional commissions resulted in inputs to preparations for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world".

67. The establishment of multi-year programmes by almost all the commissions has enhanced coordination by the United Nations system in the consideration of issues of concern. This mechanism has facilitated long-term planning as well as the adjustment of programmes of work of the commissions as changing needs emerge (for detailed description of the current and future themes to be addressed by the commissions through their multi-year programmes of work, see sect. II above).

68. It was also noted that almost all commissions followed very closely the Council's recommendation on the practice of re-electing one member of the outgoing bureau to the incoming bureau in an effort to ensure continuity.

69. Frequently reiterated was the need for chairpersons of the functional commissions to meet with the Council as it was felt that that would contribute to closer interaction and better coordination between the two groups, as well as contribute to assisting the Council in better fulfilling its overall coordinating role. It should be mentioned in this regard that the Council will hold a panel discussion with the chairpersons of the preparatory committees for the five and 10-year reviews of a number of major United Nations conferences. In addition, meetings of the chairpersons of the commissions with representatives of the specialized agencies and the executive boards of the funds and programmes of the United Nations system was suggested as a means of improving cooperation at the national and technical levels, including in the coordination of the implementation and follow-up to conferences. In this regard, the use of technologies, such as videoconferencing, needed to be considered.

70. Several suggestions were also made for improving the working methods of the commissions. For example, it was stated that while the dialogue among participants in the various segments of the commissions had been active, more could be done to further enhance an interactive dialogue if statements to be made by representatives were distributed in advance. To this end, it was suggested that the use of available communications technology, such as electronic mail, needed to be considered.

Follow-up to conferences

71. One important outcome of the joint bureaux meetings was the recognition that during the year in review, there had been marked interest and actions by functional commissions in improving linkages among them, in particular with regard to the effective, integrated and coordinated follow-up to conferences and summits, as reviewed and highlighted above.

Collaboration between functional commissions and organizations of the United Nations system

72. It was evident that there existed an increase in the level of cooperation between the functional commissions and their secretariats with other bodies of the United Nations system. It was felt that participation of members of the commissions, including members of its bureaux, in seminars, round tables and workshops organized by other organizations of the United Nations system, such as the World Bank, provided valuable opportunities for dialogue. It was also reported that cooperation between functional commissions and regional commissions had increased, as evidenced in the active participation of regional commissions in the preparations for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", including regional follow-up conferences in the respective regions.

VI. Recommendations

73. The Council may wish to consider the following recommendations:

(a) The Council may wish to invite the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development to take into consideration the multi-year work programmes of the other functional commissions when they elaborate their new multi-year programmes of work during 2001 and 2002. The Secretariat could be requested to provide a background note on the programmes of work of the functional commissions and to report to the Council, in its forthcoming consolidated reports, on the outcome of this recommendation;

(b) The Council could invite its functional commissions to devote attention to the impact of globalization on development objectives in their respective areas of competence, and to carry out an in-depth analysis of the mechanisms through which globalization, trade liberalization and technological change affect social development, the advancement of women, sustainable development and other goals monitored by each commission, particularly in developing countries;

(c) The Council may wish to call on the relevant functional commissions to continue to share reports and studies prepared by Special Rapporteurs and independent experts on such issues as globalization and its effects on the enjoyment of human rights, the right to development, structural adjustment policy and economic, social and cultural rights, and the principles of individual and collective responsibilities of transnational corporations;

(d) In an effort to enhance complementarity in the consideration of the issue of migration, the Council may wish to invite the bureaux of the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission for Social Development and the Statistical Commission to hold a joint meeting of bureaux members on their work on issues relating to migration;

(e) Given the lead role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up on poverty eradication, the Council could invite the other functional commissions to keep the Commission for Social Development closely informed of their work in this area and request the Commission for Social Development to invite the other functional commissions to share with it their treatment of specific aspects of poverty eradication being addressed by them within their areas of competence;

(f) The Council may wish to invite its functional commissions, particularly the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Sustainable Development, to take into account the agreed conclusions reached by the Commission for Social Development on its 1999 priority theme "Social services for all" when considering issues relating to basic social services;

(g) In view of the linkages between crime, drug abuse and social development, the Council may wish to invite the Commission for Social Development, in its consideration of the issues relating to basic social services, to incorporate into its work programme the relevant parts of the outcomes of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

(h) Given the wide range of issues dealt with in Agenda 21, the Council may wish to invite the functional commissions to consider the desirability of providing inputs, in their respective areas of work, to the Commission on Sustainable Development on issues of relevance to their work which could contribute to the comprehensive review of Agenda 21 in 2002. In addition, the Council may wish to encourage the Commission on Sustainable Development to undertake the broadest possible consultation with other commissions, international organizations and major groups in its preparations for the review;

(i) The Council may wish to welcome the attention given by the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women to the issue of HIV/AIDS. Given the severe implications which the HIV/AIDS pandemic has for all issues relating to development, the Council may wish to invite its functional commissions to ensure the continued consideration of relevant aspects of the issue of HIV/AIDS in their work programmes, and to also take into account the recent deliberations of the Security Council on this issue. It could invite all its commissions to increase their collaboration and cooperation in this area and draw its attention to important policy issues that the Council would need to address;

(j) The Council may wish to invite the Commission on the Status of Women to further increase its cooperation with other Commissions, in particular the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, on issues of mutual concern. The Council may also wish to request the two Commissions to examine ways to further strengthen cooperation, particularly between their secretariats;

(k) The Council may wish to explore ways of facilitating annual meetings between its Bureau and the chairpersons of the functional commissions, preferably during the substantive session of the Council, in order to discuss modalities for enhanced collaboration and cooperation among the functional commissions, as well as to convey policy guidance from the Council in that regard;

(l) The Council may wish to encourage all of its functional commissions, in particular the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, to exchange views on the priority issues to be addressed in a revised plan of action and a long-term strategy on ageing, the results of which could be fed into preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, to be held in 2002.

Annex

Joint meetings between the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council and the bureaux of its functional commissions held in 2000

Functional commission	*Date of joint meeting*
Commission for Social Development	15 February 2000
Statistical Commission	2 March 2000
Commission on Narcotic Drugs (videoconference — New York/Vienna)	13 March 2000
Commission on Population and Development	30 March 2000
Commission on Sustainable Development	28 April 2000
Commission on Human Rights (videoconference — New York/Geneva)	16 May 2000